

Introduction to Staged Intimacy Terms

Intimacy

While this work is most frequently thought about as choreographing simulated sex and working with moments of partial or full nudity. However, intimacy can be many other things. I tend to think of it any time there is touch with intensified emotions. This can be familial touch, medical scenes, a scene of childbirth, some physical comedy and more. Intimacy involves Boundary Setting Practices, choreography and closure practices.

Boundary Setting Practice

There are several valid boundary setting practices developed by a variety of intimacy professionals. At their heart, they give the performer the opportunity to communicate their boundaries on a given day and clarify any questions around those boundaries.

Some important things:

"Your boundaries are perfect wherever they are." - TIE In class or a rehearsal, we never explain or justify our boundaries.

Intimacy Choreography

Repeatable, recordable movement, communicated to the actors through desexualized language and aimed at compelling storytelling.

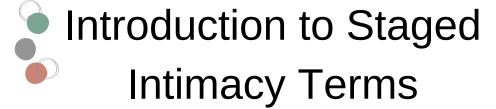
Closure Practice

Closure practices can take anywhere from 5 seconds to 20 minutes.

Some examples are:

Clap in/Out - Created by Intimacy Directors International **De-Roling** - Created by Theatrical Intimacy Education (TIE) **The Actor's Warm Down** - My own curated closure practice





Titles

This is a new field, so the language is developing, even the titles folks go by. While this list isn't exhaustive, here are some common titles people use in this growing industry

Intimacy Choreographer

Sometimes preferred because it implies repeatable, recordable movement. Also, the title used by SDC (Stage Directors and Choreographers Society) for the purpose of contracts.

Intimacy Director

Often used in the theatre. Fun fact: Claire Warden, the first Intimacy Director on Broadway, used this in her bio, and it has quickly become a commonly used title.

Intimacy Coordinator

Often used for TV and Film. Folks sometimes use it for Zoom or other online productions of theatre as well.

Intimacy Consultant

Used when someone is consulting on a project that they might not be fully choreographing.

Intimacy Specialty

Some intimacy professionals call themselves an intimacy specialist. Additionally, some intimacy professionals have an intimacy specialty. For example, I specialize in queer stories and BDSM/kink. Someone else might specialize in intimate violence or intimacy and stories about race.

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